PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Two Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Meeting,
March 4, 1915.

The 284th regular meeting of the Society was entertained by the married members at the Saengerbund Hall, March 4, 1915. There were present Messrs. Abbott, Baker, Barber, Cory, Crawford, Cushman, DeGryse, Ely, Gahan, Gill, Greene, Heinrich, Hunter, Hutchinson, Isely, Jackson, Knab, Kotinsky, McIndoo, Middleton, Popenoe, Quaintance, Rohwer, Rust, Sasscer, Schwarz, Shannon, Snyder, Townsend, Turner, Walton, Webb and Wood, members, and Messrs. J. M. Aldrich, F. W. Dry, Jacob Goldberg, H. G. Ingerson, A. C. Johnson and H. K. Plank, visitors.

Mr. E. L. Divens was elected a Corresponding Member.

The following papers were presented:

THE BERMUDA GRASS ODONASPIS.

By Jacob Kotinsky,

Branch of Forest Insects, Bureau of Entomology.

Shortly after arrival in Honolulu in 1904 I discovered this insect more or less heavily infesting Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) or "Manienie," as it is called there. Its habitat is mostly underground but invariably on the stem, never on roots. Once discovered, it is quite conspicuous by its beautiful, chalky whiteness, and oyster shape. It is always lodged under the scale-like bracts at the node.

Bermuda grass is apparently the only grass in Hawaii suitable, and is practically the only grass used, for lawn purposes. It is also well adapted for grazing purposes, especially on the low lands, hence the insect depredation is of some economic value. It is fortunate, therefore, that this scale is kept in check, to a degree at least, by a parasite. This is a beautiful, tiny, metallic green chalcidoid new to science both generically and specifically, according to the late Dr. Ashmead.

The writer was certain at the time that the coccid was undescribed, and, though he had drawn up a description and prepared drawings, failed to publish it, in the contemplation of publishing a paper covering all the coccids of Hawaii, including descriptions of all species found there new to science. As often happens, this work was delayed until 1909. Meantime, the late Mr. Craw had occasion to refer to the insect in writing to Mr. Ehrhorn, who was then in California, and called it by my MS. name, and the latter incorporated it in one of his reports. In this wise the manuscript name got into print, but *sine* description. Meantime also, Mr. Bremner published in the Canadian Entomologist for 1908 a description of *Odonaspis graminis*, from grass in California, which was so similar to the species in question, that the author took them to be identical, especially since he received the assurance of Mr. Ehrhorn to that effect. It was therefore referred to by that name in Proc. Haw. Ent. Soc. II, 127. I have since been advised by Mr. Marlatt that the species is distinct. Mr. Sasscer, of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology was kind to supply me with the slide he prepared from material originally sent to the National collection of Coccidæ. These were used for the following description.

Odonaspis ruthae, n.sp.

Female scale: Oyster shaped or mytiliform when full grown, about 1.75 mm. long, 0.75 mm. wide; chalk white; *exuviæ* at elevated end, partly or entirely covered with white waxy dust which rubs off easily, straw colored. Ventral scale well developed, with dorsal completely enclosing and sealing insect. *Male scale:* Same shape, but only about half the size of female. *Adult female:* In balsam (fig. 1), irregularly circular; hyaline, except gland-bearing margin of last 7 or 8 segments, including caudal half of pygidium, and mouth parts, all of which are more or less heavily chitinized. Diameter about 0.63 mm. *Pygidium* (fig. 2) viewed from head toward median lobes looks like a very regular inverted outline of a bell, the median lobes corresponding to the tongue, 0.36 mm. long over all, 0.315 mm. wide at tips (of "bell"). Segmental sutures distinct half way cephalad from caudal margin. *Lobes:* 2 pairs, but slightly denser than chitinized margin, not very conspicuous. Median, narrow, parallel,

rounded caudad, but apparently united, actually separated, like rest of pygidial posterior margin enveloped in a filmy membrane, intervening space at base roundly emarginate, project but 10 μ caudad of main marginal line. Second pair but slight, triangular elevations on marginal line. *Incisions:* None.

Paraphyses: Fairly distinct at sutures of two last segments, somewhat clavate cephalad. *Plates:* None. *Spines:* One each side of median lobes, on dorsum and ventrum; also one dorsal at anterior end of segmental margin. *Anal opening:* Rather small, evidently posteriorly directed, circular, central within chitinized longitudinally oval area, about one-fourth length from base of pygidium. *Paragenitals:* 3 groups, the laterals elongate, apparently anterior and posterior group united. Anterior 12–17 glands; lateral 29–33. *Dorsal pores:* Very numerous, especially on more chitinized portions of

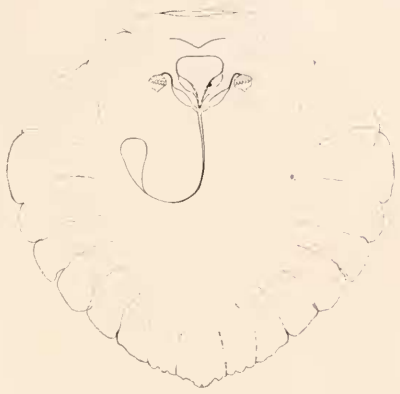

Fig. 1. Odonaspis ruthae. Contour of female.

Fig. 2. Odonaspis ruthae. Pygidium of female.

abdominal segments, arranged in more or less regular rows longitudinally. *Basal thickenings:* None. *Ventral thickenings:* None. Second stage described by author in paper above referred to.

Type: Material and slide in U. S. coccid collection No. 14089, from which this description is made.

This species is easily mistaken for *O. graminis*, but is quite distinct from it when slide preparations are compared. Among the more conspicuous differences are: the greater width of base of pygidium in our species; the dorsal pores and intersegmental sutures on the abdomen are much more distinct. Also, the median lobes of *ruthæ*, as indicated, are more separated, and the species is perceptibly smaller and more hyaline than *graminis*. Moreover, our species bears paragenital glands which do not occur in the other.

A specimen (slide) in the Bureau collection from New Orleans, La., on Bermuda grass (T. C. Barber) is in its pygidial characters absolutely identical with *ruthæ*, except that the entire body is considerably longer, being oval in outline (0.93 x 0.64 mm.). Paragenital pores in lateral groups more numerous. They may be specimens of this species grown under more favorable conditions.

The drawings were kindly made for me under my criticism by Miss E. Hart from Mr. Sasscer's photograph and slide.

A NEW AND INTERESTING GENUS OF NORTH AMERICAN TACHINIDÆ.

By W. R. Walton,

Bureau of Entomology, Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations.

Our knowledge of the muscoid parasites of grasshoppers in North America is gradually being enlarged. Some of the genera now known to have this habit are as follows:[1] *Sarcophaga, Ocyptera, Hilarella, Trichopoda, Heteropterina, Acemyia*, and I now add another, constituting a new and unique genus and species. The former I take great pleasure in proposing in honor of the late D. W. Coquillett whose valuable preliminary work in the superfamily Muscoidea is recognized by nearly all students.

Coquillettina, new genus.

Related to *Acemyia* Desv. Palpi small and slender, first vein bare, sides of face on lower half bare, proboscis shorter than height of head, eyes bare, lower front corner of third antennal joint bearing a projection, in the male pointing forward (fig. 1–a) in the female, downward and forward (fig. 3b) the lower edge distinctly notched. Eyes bare, front in

[1] I view with grave doubt the authenticity of the recorded rearing of *Frontina frenchii*, Will, from *Dissosteira carolina*, by Prof. Lugger in 1874 as published by Mr. Coquillett.